

COUNTY REPORT

Los Angeles Motorists Lose Out on Gas Tax

By BURTON W. CHACE
County Supervisor

County supervisors are quite concerned over the "twist" which a state bill approving a 1-cent emergency gas tax has taken.

Los Angeles County led the fight for the temporary, six-month emergency gas tax to pay for the cost of repairing or rebuilding roads damaged by the severe storms and resultant floods of the past winter.

It was our position that proceeds from the one-cent gas tax collected in this county would be used to make the nec-

essary repairs and improvements in this county. The alternative was to postpone all projects planned next year and use the money for repairs.

HOWEVER, by the time the bill was approved by the State Legislature, it had been amended so that the formula was different from the Board of Supervisors' original intent. As it stands now, the state will allocate revenue from the one-cent gas tax to counties on a formula based on damages, not on each county's contribution.

Los Angeles County, the largest in the nation — let alone the state — is the home of 34 per cent of the state's registered vehicles. By rule of the thumb, that means 34 per cent of the gas tax revenues come from this county.

BUT UNDER conditions of the amended law, only about \$1.3 million will be channeled to Los Angeles County from the temporary gas tax, based on the formula derived from a percentage of damages. Strikingly, about \$15.7 million will be contributed by gas tax purchases in Los Angeles County.

In other words, this county will get back less than 10 per cent of what it collects through the temporary gas tax revenues. This is hardly fair and certainly wasn't the intent of the Board of Supervisors when it supported a temporary bill to cover the costs of flood damages.

THE TOTAL bill for the damages, incidentally, is expected to run between \$9.3 million and \$11 million. Supervisors have called for an itemization of actual costs and damage estimates in an effort to get a clear picture of what we believe, the county is entitled to.

Since the drastically amended bill is an accomplished fact now, certainly \$1.3 million toward reconstruction costs is better than nothing. But getting less than 10 per cent of a \$15 million investment is not a good investment in anyone's book.

ON MY motion, county supervisors have called for a feasibility study into the development of a city-county administrative center in Lomita.

The request was referred to two county departments for recommendations. The sheriff's department will make a recommendation on the advisability of a substation in Lomita, while the Chief Administrative Officer will consider the needs of various other county departments.

The study was ordered at the request of the Lomita City Council. The council is anxious to enter into a joint agreement for development of such an administrative center, with special emphasis on a sheriff's station.

ANOTHER portion of the study will consider the feasibility of financing the joint venture if one is recommended.

There have been indications that space will be needed in the Lomita area for the county engineer, assessor, and library departments. These factors will be weighed in the county study.

There is a definite need for sheriff's facilities in the Lomita-Palos Verdes Peninsula area. The decision on the exact location should come after a firm recommendation by Sheriff Peter Pitchess.

Lomita has made a concerted drive for location of the sheriff's station within its city limits, and I am anxious to cooperate if the concerned county departments concur with the site recommended.

'Fun Thru Music' Events Scheduled at City Parks

"Fun Thru Music," sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department, will give young musicians an opportunity to develop their musical talents by participating in an organized band during a 10-week class this summer.

Presented for elementary school students, programs will begin the week of June 16 and will run through Aug. 21. Four different areas will host the class from 1 to 5 p.m. each week day.

Torrance Day Slated

Residents of Torrance will spend a festive day at the Los Angeles County Fair Thursday, Sept. 18. Fair dates are Sept. 12 through 28.

Among the many attractions will be the Polack Bros. circus in the free grandstand show, exotic exhibits from foreign lands in the international pavilion, the rockhound's skill in the gems and minerals exhibits, the talent of youth in the junior fair, and the work of American master craftsmen in the "art in action" show.

will be held at McMaster Park, 3624 W. Artesia Blvd. Tuesday, the program will move to Walteria Park, 3855 W. 242nd St., and Wednesday, it will be at

the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. El Retiro Park, 126 Vista del Parque, will be host Thurs-

days. Registration is currently in progress at the Joslyn Center, 3335 Torrance Blvd. A fee of \$1.50 will be charged to cover the cost of music and band pin.

State Takes Charge of Estate Worth \$111,000

An estate valued at \$111,000 has been turned over to the State of California by Baldo M. Kristovich, Los Angeles County public administrator.

Kristovich said his office was unsuccessful in locating any legal heirs to the estate of William Goodman, who died March 8, 1965. Goodman was born in Russia and was about 70 years of age.

A metal shop owner, he last lived at 715 S. Crocker St., Los Angeles.

If the state fails to locate a legal heir within five years, the entire \$111,000 will be added to the state treasury. The estate is reportedly the largest ever to be turned over to the state.

Escheat estates totaling \$612,000 have been distributed to the state since the fiscal year began last July 1, Kristovich said.

They include the estates of: ● Henry DuBroy, who died July 8, 1966. A single man, he was born March 13, 1888, in Poland and last lived in Bell Gardens. He left an estate valued at \$35,883.

● Joseph Lingo, who died July 21, 1965. Born in Italy May 3, 1893, he was divorced

and last lived in Inglewood. His estate is valued at \$28,335.

● Mathew Stockum, who died Dec. 29, 1962, and left an estate worth \$25,998. A single man, he last lived in Los Angeles. He was born in Lithuania Sept. 21, 1885.

● Henry Knoble, who died Sept. 10, 1967. Born Dec. 5, 1886, in Austria, he was divorced and last lived in Los Angeles. He left an estate valued at \$19,602.

● Marcella Torney, who died Feb. 3, 1969. Last known to have lived in El Monte, she was born Sept. 27, 1884, in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her estate is valued at \$17,670.

● Ernest Wellington Richmond, who died April 8, 1966. Born Feb. 11, 1904, in New York, he last lived in Los Angeles. A divorced man, he left an estate valued at \$16,853.

Kristovich said the estates are a few of the larger estates which has administered recently and distributed to the state. Legal heirs can still claim the estates from the state by writing to the Bureau of Unclaimed Property, Post Office Box 1019, Sacramento.

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